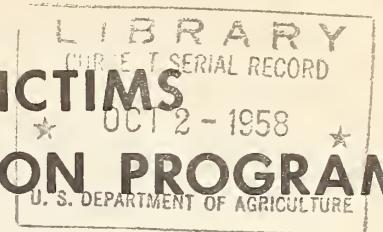


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FOOD AID TO DISASTER VICTIMS THROUGH THE DIRECT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM



Fiscal Year 1958

During fiscal year 1958 the United States Department of Agriculture donated available commodities for relief purposes upon request of local officials in 15 areas stricken by natural disasters. These disasters, consisting of five floods, three heavy snows, two tornadoes, two storms with excessive rain, two fires, and one hurricane, occurred in eleven States and Puerto Rico.

A total of 1.4 million pounds of USDA foods, which cost the Government \$194,000 was distributed to about 70,000 people (see Table I). The food supplies were made available to relief organizations through the cooperation of State distributing agencies handling the donation of USDA foods to schools and other eligible outlets.

The periods of emergency during which commodities were distributed ranged from three days to thirteen weeks. The latter period resulted from prolonged interruption of agricultural employment of migratory workers due to excessive rains and freezing in Florida. Distribution at the local level to the victims was primarily under the direction of the American Red Cross, with State and county welfare departments, Civil Defense agencies and the Salvation Army assisting.

In New Mexico, heavy rains made roads impassable, isolating the small village of Llaves. The New Mexico State Department of Public Welfare cooperated with the United States Air Force in airlifting food to the

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victims. In nine of the disasters, central feeding was accomplished through utilization of school lunchroom facilities; a total of about 24,000 persons received food, prepared in 39 schools. Feeding in homes occurred in seven of the disaster areas.

The victims were offered thirteen different types of foods, consisting of ten surplus agricultural commodities, and three "Section 6" foods originally intended for use only in the National School Lunch Program. Small quantities of the latter group of commodities were offered to victims in Puerto Rico and were replaced by the disaster relief organizations. Flour, cornmeal, rice, cheese, and nonfat dry milk were distributed in greater volume than any other commodities. These items represented approximately 97 percent of the total volume (see Table II).

The sources of the USDA foods were school and institutional storerooms, State distributing agency warehouses, and stocks of the Commodity Credit Corporation. Donated foods released from supplies of distribution outlets within the States and Puerto Rico to meet the emergency relief needs were replaced promptly by the Department wherever it was possible to do so.

TABLE I. QUANTITY AND COST OF COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTED,
AND NUMBER OF PERSONS RECEIVING DISASTER RELIEF
ASSISTANCE, BY STATES

FISCAL YEAR 1958

STATE	TYPE OF DISASTER	DATE OF DISASTER	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE	COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION	
				POUNDS	DOLLARS
Alabama	Heavy Snow	2-15-58	1,234	18,015	2,652
California	Flood	4-3-58	165	119	43
Florida	Heavy Rains & Freezing	12-27-57	41,986	1,322,532	179,512
Indiana	Flood	6-16-58	500	1,820	572
Kansas	Tornado	6-10-58	597	327	83
Louisiana	Hurricane	6-27-57	15,000 1/	54,310	7,786
New Mexico	Heavy Rains	3-25-58	60	1,320	267
New York	Heavy Snow	2-27-58	300	580	78
Pennsylvania	Heavy Snow	3-20-58	4,500	315	108
Puerto Rico	Fire	3-4-58	3,228	536	125
Puerto Rico	Flood	5-7-58	616	3,786	732
Puerto Rico	Fire	5-15-58	35	186	37
Puerto Rico	Flood	6-7-58	33	60	14
South Carolina	Flood	3-15-58	359	3,166	515
Wisconsin	Tornado	6-4-58	1,010	6,069	1,915
TOTAL			69,623	1,413,141	194,439

1/ First day after hurricane three meals were served to approximately 15,000 people utilizing donated commodities. Remainder of emergency period 2,750 people were assisted.

QUANTITY AND COST OF COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTED
TO DISASTER RELIEF RECIPIENTS
FISCAL YEAR 1958

COMMODITY	QUANTITY (POUNDS)	COST (DOLLARS)
Flour	472,890	35,846
Corn meal	324,115	21,328
Rice	219,340	25,136
Cheese	179,897	73,127
Non-fat Dry Milk	169,646	33,336
Beans, Dry	42,571	3,704
Butter	2,722	1,695
Grapefruit Sections	1,041	139
Peaches, cnd. <u>1/</u>	655	78
Tomatoes cnd. <u>1/</u>	136	13
Peanut Butter	81	13
Peas, cnd. <u>1/</u>	27	2
Eggs, Dried	20	22
TOTAL		194,439

1/ Emergency conditions necessitated utilization of National School Lunch Program "Section 6" commodities. Comparable commodities were replaced by disaster relief organizations.

